

DETAILED ACTION

The Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 2169.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

The original abstract had two paragraphs:

REPLACE THE ABSTRACT

An image switching device for connecting to a plurality of image output devices via a digital interface having the capability of selecting image outputs sequentially of the image outputting devices. Cameras (101 to 104) are connected to a camera switching device (105) via an IEEE 1394 standard-based digital interface (114). Synchronizing timing signals transmitted in isochronous communication packets from the camera switching device(105) are synchronized with image signals on the camera(101 to 104) sides, each camera (101 to 104)transmits its image signals in synchronous communication packets based on image switching control data transmitted in asynchronous communication packets or isochronous communication packets from a camera switching control unit (106), and the camera switching device(105) selectively receives image data transmitted from a desired camera based on image switching control data.

Based on a Restriction, Rejoined Claim 3

1. Claims 2, 6, 8-9 are allowable.
2. **Claim 3**, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, includes all the limitations of an allowable claim. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in MPEP § 821.04(a), **the restriction requirement between inventions, as set forth in the Office action mailed on 10/5/2005, is hereby withdrawn** and therefore, **claim 3** is hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104. In view of the withdrawal of the restriction requirement, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once the restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 2, the prior art of record fails to teach, disclose or fairly suggest an image switching device for switching for switching a plurality of image outputting devices connected though a digital interface and delivering image signals comprising: image switching control means for sending image switching control data for selecting and controlling a desired device of the plurality of outputting devices **to the selected image output device**; image signal selecting means for selecting and receiving the image signal transmitted from the selected image outputting device according to the image switching control data and synchronizing signal transmitting means for transmitting a synchronizing timing signal for synchronizing the image outputting devices, wherein the digital interface conforms to the IEEE1394 standard and the synchronizing timing signal and image signal to be transmitted are transmitted by isochronous communication packet.

Claim 4 is allowable for substantially the same reasons as claim 2, but the scope is different in view of further reciting that, "the switching control data is transmitted by an asynchronous communication packet."

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to the examiner of record Vincent F. Boccio whose telephone number is (571) 272-7373.

The examiner can normally be reached on between Monday-Thursday between (7:30 AM to 5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mohammad Ali, can be reached on (571) 272-4105.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vincent F. Boccio/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2169